

Points 2-3: Claim Rejections: based on Germann, US Patent No. 5,282,417:

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,282,417 to Germann. Applicant has amended claim 1 to further clarify the patentably distinct aspects of the invention. Nowhere in Germann is there any description of inserting the intermediate sheets (which are not to be printed in the process) together with the unprinted sheets in a sequence as required by claim 1 as now amended. In particular, there is no description, teaching or suggestion of a “machine for printing unprinted sheets, in particular securities sheets, while not printing intermediate sheets, the machine having a first feed for feeding unprinted sheets, a second feed for feeding intermediate sheets, a plate cylinder with at least one printing plate, an impression cylinder, a wiping device, an inking system for inking the necessary zones of the plate or plates carried by the plate cylinder, and a delivery system for receiving the sheets from the impression cylinder after a complete revolution thereof, wherein the impression cylinder alternately receives an unprinted sheet and an intermediate sheet from the first and second feeds, wherein for an impression cylinder—which can carry N sheets on its periphery, N being a multiple of 2, the plate cylinder carries N/2 plates, so that only the unprinted sheets carried by the impression cylinder are printed by each of the plates during one complete revolution of the cylinders while the intermediate sheets are not printed by each of the plates, and wherein the delivery system receives the sheets from the impression cylinder in such a way that a stack of sheets composed alternatively of printed sheets and intermediate sheets separating the printed sheets is formed.” Applicant asserts that this language clearly, patentably distinguishes the invention from Germann. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.

As for claims 2, and 5-7, these claims depend on claim 1. Because claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited Germann reference, all these dependent claims are also, by definition, distinguished and therefore patentable over Germann. Acknowledgment of this fact is respectfully requested.

Points 4-6: §103 Rejections based on Germann in view of Harrold US Patent No. 1,935,051:

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Germann in view of Harrold. Applicant traverses this rejection but nonetheless has amended claim 1, for clarity, as pointed out above, reiterating that Germann does not teach or suggest the combination of elements as now claimed. Harrold teaches that the plate cylinder (8 and 9) prints only from one or the other of the paper piles, respectively (see col. 2, lines 85-94). In other words, in this case, one of the plate cylinders prints only one group of sheets (the non-printed sheets) and not the others (the "intermediate sheets"). Thus, Harrold solves a completely different problem, namely, to improve the printing speed. On this point, Harrold teaches only the delivery of the "printed" sheets on two different piles. Thus, it is clear that Harrold does not teach or remotely suggest the invention as now claimed. Further, the combination of Harrold and Germann lacks a common nexus and thus, cannot be combined to render Applicant's invention obvious. It is therefore respectfully asserted that the claims as now amended are in condition for allowance.

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Point 7: Conclusion

Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending claims, canceling claims, and by pointing out herein with particularity how the claims now presented are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered by this amendment. Any limitations to the claims are made solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the application

and, unless otherwise expressly stated, are not made to narrow, vis-à-vis the prior art, the scope of protection which any subsequently issuing patent might afford.

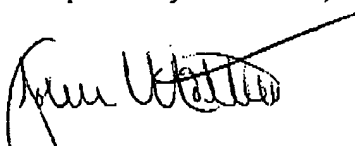
If the Examiner has further questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at phone 011-4122-747-7849, fax at 011-4122-346-8960 (Geneva is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Std Time), or e-mail at patents@bugnion.ch.

The Undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee or credit any overpayment of any fee under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required in this application to the deposit account of BUGNION S.A., no. 50-0800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: none


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